10/620,116   MS127735.02/MSFTP263USA

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1-4.   (Cancelled).

5.   (New) A computer-implemented method utilizing a classifier trained with predefined data sets that are indicative of item priority levels, comprising:

determining a priority of a received item utilizing the trained classifier, the received item priority is utilized to facilitate electronic communication.

6.   (New) The method of claim 5, the classifier is at least one of a Bayesian classifier and a support-vector machine classifier.

7.   (New) The method of claim 5, wherein the classifier is explicitly trained.

8.   (New) The method of claim 7, the explicit training is performed during initial phases of constructing the classifier.

9.   (New) The method of claim 7, the predefined data set employed for explicitly training the classifier comprises a training set to discriminate between time-critical and non-time-critical items.

10.   (New) The method of claim 7, wherein explicitly training the classifier comprises utilizing feature selection.

11.   (New) The method of claim 10, feature selection includes a mutual information analysis.

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12.   (New) The method of claim 10, feature selection operates on single words.

13.   (New) The method of claim 10, feature selection operates on phrases.

14.   (New) The method of claim 10, feature selection operates on parts of speech.

15.   (New) The method of claim 10, feature selection employs high-level patterns.

16.   (New) The method of claim 10, feature selection utilizes tokens.

17.   (New) The method of claim 10, feature selection utilizes tagged text to discriminate features of an item.

18.   (New) The method of claim 5, wherein the classifier is implicitly trained.

19.   (New) The method of claim 18, further comprising implicitly training the classifier by continually tracking user actions.

20.   (New) The method of claim 18, further comprising implicitly training the classifier by assuming that time-critical items are reviewed prior to non-time-critical items.

21.   (New) The method of claim 18, further comprising continually updating the classifier *via* the implicit training.

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22.   (New) A computer-implemented method utilizing a trained classifier that classifies an item, the classifier is one of a Bayesian classifier and a support-vector machine classifier, comprising:

receiving an obtained item;

generating a priority of the obtained item based at least in part on the trained classifier, the priority is a function of expected cost of delayed review of the obtained item; and,

routing the obtained item for communications based on a routing criteria and the generated priority.

23.   (New) The method of claim 22, routing the item comprises forwarding the item.

24.   (New) The method of claim 23, routing the item further comprises:

determining whether the priority is greater than a predetermined threshold;

determining whether a user has been away for more than a predetermined amount of time; and,

routing the item upon determining that the priority of the item is greater than the predetermined threshold and that the user has been away for more than the predetermined amount of time.

25.   (New) The method of claim 22, routing the item comprises replying to a sender of the item.

26.   (New) The method of claim 25, replying to the sender comprises replying to the sender with a predetermined message.

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27.   (New) The method of claim 25, routing the item further comprises:

determining whether the priority is greater than a predetermined threshold;

determining whether a user has been away for more than a predetermined amount of time; and,

routing the item upon determining that the priority of the item is greater than the predetermined threshold and that the user has been away for more than the predetermined amount of time.

28.   (New) The method of claim 22, routing the item based on a routing criteria comprises:

determining whether the priority is greater than a predetermined threshold; and,

routing the item upon determining that the priority of the item is greater than the predetermined threshold.

29.   (New) The method of claim 22, receiving the item comprises receiving an email.

30.   (New) The method of claim 22, the item is at least one of a text, a document, a file, a message, a message attachment, and content associated with the message.

31.   (New) The method of claim 24, the predetermined threshold dynamically changes as a function of extrinsic information.

32.   (New) A computer-implemented method comprising:

receiving an item intended for a recipient;

generating a priority of the item based at least in part on an expected value of alerting the recipient; and,

routing the item for communications based at least in part on a routing criteria and the priority.

33.   (New) The method of claim 32, the item is at least one of a text, a document, a file, a message, a message attachment, and content associated with the message.

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34.   (New) A computerized system that facilitates communication, comprising:

a component that trains a classifier utilizing predefined data sets that are indicative of item priority levels; and

a component that classifies a received item to obtain the received item's priority, the priority is employed to facilitate electronic communication.

35.   (New) The system of claim 34, the component that classifies is at least one of a Bayesian classifier and a support-vector machine classifier.

36.   (New) The system of claim 34, the component explicitly trains the classifier.

37.   (New) The system of claim 34, the component implicitly trains the classifier.

38.   (New) The system of claim 34, further comprising a program that provides the item to the classifier.

39.   (New) The system of claim 34, further comprising a routing mechanism that routes the item based upon a routing criteria and the item's priority.